

History of the Library Building and Artwork

Josiah and Georgiana (Drake) Carpenter constructed the building that houses the Josiah Carpenter Library, then donated the building and its furnishings to the Town of Pittsfield, NH for the purpose of operating a public library. Designed by architect William Butterfield, building was dedicated during Pittsfield's first "Old Home" celebration conducted the week of August 17-21, 1901. The library dedication was the culminating event of the week, and was followed by an elegant outdoor banquet. The building's inventory designation within the US Department of the Interior, National Register of Historic Places states "Josiah Carpenter Library: 1901. A small but elaborate neoclassic building appointed with a full complement of classical details." In 2005, an addition was constructed to enable handicapped access in compliance with the American with Disabilities Act.



A number of paintings have been donated to the library for the viewing pleasure of the library visitors. The most significant are the portraits of Josiah and Georgiana Carpenter, which hang in the library's main room. The Carpenters commissioned Jean Paul Selinger, 1850-1909, to paint their portraits to be hung in the library. The portraits were created as a pair, and intended for the space where they continue to hang. During 2021 Martha Cox Painting Conservation of Shapleigh, Maine cleaned and restored the portraits. Funding for the conservation work was provided by the NH State Council on the Arts Conservation License Plate Program, more affectionately known as Moose Plates, and the Globe Community Fund.

Additional paintings and photographs on display include scenes of Pittsfield created by William Butterfield, Paul Drouin, Frank French, and Robert Lemer.